

sician's perusal. Do you see the lovely gold brick? Some woman sees this advertisement; she is a bit skeptical; she asks the druggist, "Do physicians prescribe this?"; the druggist says that some do; she then concludes that she will save her doctor's fee and give "bovine" to the ailing child at home, with the result that some serious condition, maybe, goes on unrecognized and untreated till all chance of recovery is lost. And yet scores of supposedly decent medical journals are advertising this very same stuff—bovine—whatever it may be or contain—and among them are: *American Medicine*; *Medical Record*; the official journals of the state medical societies of *Wisconsin* and *Maryland*, and possibly others; *Cleveland Medical Journal*; *St. Paul Medical Journal*, "Edited and published by the Ramsey County Medical Society." Is it not astonishing that the medical profession will continue to extend with one hand and accept with the other "gold bricks" like this? To bunco one's own self! It seems almost too ridiculous to be true!

Four more state medical organizations have started medical journals as the medium of publication of their transactions, and one, **S T A T E JOURNALS.** Maryland, has made an existing journal its official publication. Texas, Ohio, South Carolina and New Mexico are the states to begin the publication of new journals, and we certainly wish them the very best of success and long and useful lives. The acceptance of the journal idea by comparatively small organizations, such as South Carolina and New Mexico, is very suggestive, and is a lesson to some of the larger organizations which as yet are undecided. The fact that the members of a society can in this manner be reached every month in the year, and not merely once a year, at the annual meetings, is undoubtedly one of the strongest arguments in favor of the state organization journal. The action of the A. M. A. in establishing the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry furnishes a good and safe guide for the benefit of those who have charge of the business management of state medical association journals, and there seems little reason to doubt that they can come together on a common ground and effect an organization of state medical journals that will be of great usefulness and advantage to all. The four new journals have started right, and there is no reason why, under the advice of the Council, they should not continue right; we believe that they will, and we certainly wish them well.

THE LANE LECTURES.

The institution of annual courses of lectures to be given by men who have shown themselves to be masters in their particular branch of medicine is one to be commended, for a variety of reasons. No one of experience will deny that the spoken word will produce effects which the written word will not pro-

duce. We may read the words of a man for years and profit greatly by them, and yet be in the dark concerning much of their meaning. Books, especially text-books, are seldom italicized, and the lecture italicizes the work in terms of the personality of the lecturer. This is not only of value in separating the important from the unimportant, a thing that young students especially are often unable to satisfactorily do, it also serves to bring before us the personality of the lecturer, to communicate, to some at any rate, a share of his enthusiasm, and to illuminate by verbal interpolations or case experiences what would perhaps be passages doubtful in interpretation. One thing is certain in connection with this particular course of lectures, and that is that those of us who read in future the writings of Sir Patrick Manson will do so with greatly added enthusiasm, and doubtless with greatly added insight.

If any one thing in Dr. Manson's general plan of considering his subject was apparent from the first, it was the breadth of his point of view. The lectures were no narrow recital of bare facts and naked truths, but were decently clothed in an atmosphere in which the prominent constituents were broad knowledge of biologic principles, wide experience, and that logical imaginativeness so necessary to the scientific investigator. This was nowhere more apparent than in his opening lecture in which, with great simplicity and directness, he formulated the principles underlying the distribution of disease in the tropics. Comparing the distribution of the ordinary flora and fauna with that of the microscopic flora and fauna, he showed that the former must vary because of the differences in climate, whilst the latter shows much less variation because man, with his relatively unvarying characteristics in different parts of the world, is their normal habitat. The variation in diseases in different climates is, therefore, in the main dependent on conditions affecting the disease parasites during the intermediate stage in which they are passing or being carried from one human host to another. This idea, one of the most important advanced, was illustrated in a general way, and by the citation of specific diseases. It was shown, for example, that certain diseases could occur only in the tropics because the necessary temperature and moisture could not be found elsewhere. *Tinea imbricata* and *Pinta* were cited as examples, these being diseases of the skin in which the parasite is directly in contact with the surrounding air, and dependent on a proper condition of this for life. Again it was shown that many tropical diseases could be introduced into temperate climates, but could not spread, usually because the conditions necessary for certain phases in the life history of